



Please insert on page 1 between the title of the application and the first paragraph the following new paragraph:

#### CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

B  
This application is filed under the provisions of 35 USC §371 and claims the priority of International Patent Application No. PCT/DE99/02977 filed September 14, 1999, which in turn claims priority of German Patent Application No. 198 42 557.0 filed September 17, 1998.

#### REMARKS

This claim to priority is being filed within four (4) months of August 22, 2001 the date when the above-identified application met all requirements under 35 U.S.C. §371. Also, applicants claimed priority to International Patent Application No. PCT/DE99/02977 and German Patent Application No. 198 42 557.0 when the above-identified application was filed in the United States Patent and Trademark Office as evidenced by the enclosed filing receipt.

Respectfully submitted,

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